



THE FRC SCOOP

Fremont Family Resource Center

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Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter/Spring 2004

A **NEW** LOGO to Represent our Collaborative Work at the Fremont Family Resource Center

"So pick just four words that summarize the work that 24 agencies at the Fremont Family Resource Center do to assist families and then capture that in an image."

That was the task assigned to both an undergraduate and graduate advertising class of the Academy of Art College in San Francisco, led by instructor Maree Quintana.

Developing a logo for the Fremont Family Resource Center which represents the collective and collaborative work we do together has long been on our "to do" list.

Now, thanks to FRC Community Engagement Specialist Patricia Garcia, who found Maree Quintana and her students, we proudly unveil our new Fremont FRC logo.

Maree's class visited the FRC and got a feel for the families we serve and

our family support principles before taking on our challenge. Selected by a group of agency representatives, customers, and the Leadership Team, the logo below (chosen from 40 entries produced by the Academy of Art College students) was felt to best represent the FRC's collective efforts



to be inclusive of all who come through the door, and to promote family self-sufficiency and empowerment in a family friendly environment. Along with the logo, we soon hope to have a poster that will help promote the work of the FRC in the community.

It is our hope that each agency will promote the collaborative work that takes place here at the FRC. We will be providing each organization with an electronic copy of the new logo. We know each agency has their own unique identity, but we ask that you add the FRC logo to your literature and marketing materials, in recognition that you are a partner of the Fremont Family Resource Center!

Special thanks to Maree Quintana and her talented students and to Patricia Garcia for finding us this wonderful resource!

Teen Parents Visit the FRC

by Anette Raichbart, teacher, Robertson High School

The Robertson High School teen parents took a field trip to the Fremont Family Resource Center (FRC) on January 21, 2004. During their visit, the students gathered information about a plethora of services offered through the FRC such as: housing assistance, medical services, health services, adult and youth employment, WIC services, domestic violence support, parent support, counseling support, and many others.

In addition to the helpful information gathered at the FRC, our teen parents were welcomed by the Community Engagement Committee, and were treated to gift baskets full of baby supplies made possible by students from Irvington High School.

The experience at the FRC was a truly rewarding one. Our teen parents now know what wonderful resources are available in the City of Fremont, and have become acquainted with some new faces at the FRC.

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From the FRC Administrator

By Judy Schwartz

As the winter rains pour down in earnest, preparing us for what should be a beautiful Spring, we are all trying to stay dry, while our organizations struggle to stay afloat in this time of shrinking budgets. We are living through a period of uncertainty – we don't know from day to day what resources we have to work with...yet the Family Resource Center remains strong and open for business, serving every family that walks through our doors. The commitment and professionalism of the staff who work at each of our member agencies, along with the core FRC staff, is inspiring to me on a daily basis.

This edition of the Scoop is representative of that commitment. Whether it be soccer in the Cabrillo neighborhood, bringing kids and families together to support one another and strengthen their community (p. 3); or our second annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, helping low-income families to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit and work toward self-sufficiency (p. 6); or the introduction of CRIL's new web-site providing access to invaluable resources for the disabled community (p. 10); or our two recent events in honor of Black History Month (p.9). We are reaching out to partner with the community, to strengthen families, one step at a time.

Sadly, we recently bid adieu to Lawrence Shweky, our Clinical Supervisor/Service Integration Coordinator, who left to take a position in San Francisco, where he lives. Lawrence has left his mark on the FRC in many ways - including being the person who inspired and created this much improved SCOOP presentation. We are attempting to carry on Lawrence's innovations and influence with this issue of the SCOOP. We hope we have succeeded – and that you enjoy reading the articles in this edition.

Special thanks to the members of the FRC Scoop Editorial Board, who worked tirelessly to get the stories and bring them to print!



Family Support Services Is Easier To Reach!

The FRC's Family Support Services has a new phone number, 574-2291, so take note! As professional social workers, we're here to help any family that comes to the FRC deal with tough issues they may be facing. Feel free to give us a call at our new number if you have a family that needs community resources or help in coordinating services. We can link families to information about housing and shelters, offer financial and credit resources, provide mental health counseling and offer information about classes to strengthen parenting strategies and help provide children's assessments and testing for children who may have learning challenges. We're here to offer ongoing support for families interested in making changes in their lives. Please call us if you have questions or want to refer a family to us.

(510) 574-2291

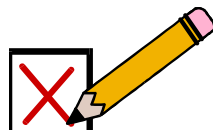


Register to VOTE!!!

Clients, Staff, Visitors....All are invited to visit the Welcome Center and ask for a Voter Registration Form.

It's simple, it's easy, and it's FREE!

Don't forget...you must re-register if you have moved since the last time you voted!



THE FRC SCOOP

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The FRC Scoop is published four times a year and is distributed to FRC agencies, funders and other interested parties. Its mission is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among FRC agencies in order to create a more integrated service delivery system for our clients.

The FRC Scoop is a publication of the Fremont Family Resource Center, a collaborative of 22 city, county, state and non-profit agencies lead by the City of Fremont Human Services Department. For more information, contact Judy Schwartz at 510-574-2274 or JSchwartz@ci.fremont.ca.us.

All Winners in the Cabrillo Neighborhood After-School Soccer Program

by Robin Michel

Naomi, Rebecca and Sohar, three determined 4th grade girls dressed in sparkling clean navy blue Patterson soccer jerseys, watch a practice scrimmage between Cabrillo and Oliveira schools. "I woke up shaking!" Naomi grins, "I am so nervous!" "They look so BIG!" Rebecca shakes her head. "I think they're all sixth graders!" Sohar adds.

This was the girls' very first soccer tournament, and they were nervous, which isn't unusual. What was unusual, however, was the fact that the girls were playing on a co-ed team, competing with co-ed teams from other schools in the FRC's Cabrillo Neighborhood After-School Soccer Program.



"I think it's wonderful that you are having girls and boys learn to play on the same team at such a young age," said a director from a Bay Area girl's soccer program. "This is truly what leveling the playing field is all about."

The Cabrillo Neighborhood Soccer Tournament took place on January 10th, 2004 at Cabrillo Elementary School, and was the culmination of a 10-week after-school soccer program brought to Cabrillo, Oliveira and Patterson elementary schools as part of the FRC's community engagement work in the neighborhood. The FRC received a \$29,000 grant from Team-Up for Youth, a foundation that promotes the healthy development of young people by strengthening and expanding youth sports and leveling the playing field to ensure quality sports opportunities for all children and youth. This funding provided new equipment for all three schools, and cleats, shin guards and jerseys for more than 200 children who enrolled in the free after-school program. Parents and high school

students volunteered as coaches and assistant coaches, and local businesses signed up as sponsors to help defray tournament expenses.

"I think this program is incredible," said one parent echoing the sentiments of many. "It gives my children a chance to try a sport I can't afford to pay for (through existing leagues)." Another parent expressed amazement at the progress his children—a boy and girl—made through the season. "They are really playing well!"

Although the first season was a rainy one, tournament day boasted blue skies and plenty of sunshine. More than 400 friends and family turned out, many with potluck dishes to share at the barbecue lunch provided by Washington Hospital. The fields were dotted with blue, yellow, and white jerseys, and the proud players wearing their new uniform shirts all stood several inches taller than usual.

How did the nervous trio of fourth grade girls fare? "We tied! We tied! We tied! We had a shoot-out," they all chorused, "and Cabrillo won. But oh, we played so good!"

The girls did play well, and no one seemed to mind that Cabrillo took home the first place trophy—not once, twice, but three times in all three age divisions: kindergarten, 1-3, and 4-6.

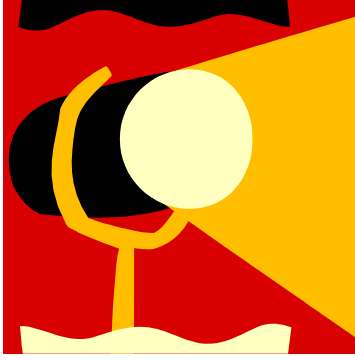
The trophies were incidental to the real win, which a parent later expressed in a survey: "Watching the kids overcome their fears and nervousness on the day of the tournament. Watching them enjoy playing and using the skills and how it all came together... Meeting so many people who have the best interests of kids at heart."

The FRC is now recruiting for tournament volunteers, coaches and assistant coaches for the second session, which begins mid-March. Adults who enjoy working with children are encouraged to apply. If you would like to volunteer, please call Patricia Garcia at (510) 574-2276.



An Amazing thing.....

I saw an amazing thing take place on Saturday. It wasn't extraordinary, it was amazing because it was so very ordinary. I saw children playing in the park. And with them they brought their families. Grandparents, uncles, aunts, mothers and fathers, all coming to see their young ones play in a soccer tournament. It wasn't about the sponsors, it wasn't about the FRC or the organizations, it was about hundreds of neighbors coming out on a sunny day, just laughing and eating and sharing one good day together. It shouldn't go unnoticed that so many cultures make up those little teams. White, Black, Latino, Hindi, the kids are innocent enough to believe that being on a team together makes them friends, you could see it in the way they cheered for each other. And it spilled over onto the sidelines, neighbor to neighbor. Indeed an amazing thing took place in the park on Saturday. - Michael Garcia, Community Volunteer



Agency Spotlight: Lao Family Community Development, Inc. (LFCD) Now at FRC!

by Jennie Mollica

The newest neighbor at the FRC is Lao Family Community Development, Inc. (LFCD), which established its office in Suite D450 in January of 2004. Although LFCD has offered services in Fremont since 1998, this move to the FRC marks an important development for us and an improvement in our ability to serve Fremont's limited English speaking refugees and immigrants.

LFCD was established in 1980 in Richmond, Contra Costa County, by a group of newly-arrived Laotian refugees. Since then, LFCD has assisted low-income refugees and immigrants throughout the East Bay to use and develop their own resources to achieve self-sufficiency and secure futures for their families in the communities where they reside. LFCD now serves thousands of refugees and immigrants annually through refugee and CalWORKs employment services, youth leadership development, English training, family literacy, parenting education, consumer education, social adjustment counseling, crime victim assistance, citizenship assistance, health education, low-income housing development and community development. With the start-up of LFCD's Multilingual Homeownership Program and Individual Development Account Program, both in 2002, the agency now meets a growing need for services helping refugees and immigrants to build their assets and establish themselves in their communities.

LFCD's new office at the FRC will be staffed full-time by Grana Haidari and Marzia Mujaddide, both natives of Afghanistan with experience in employment, Individual Development Accounts (IDA), financial education and other social services. Other LFCD staff will visit the office frequently to offer services in other languages (Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodian, Bosnian, Spanish, Lao, and Mien) and in other service areas. Fremont residents are welcome to come to LFCD to learn more about:

- Employment assistance
- First-time homebuyer assistance
- Individual Development Accounts
- Financial education
- Auto and telecommunications consumer education

Now that we have established a home at the FRC, LFCD looks forward to expanding our services to reach more Fremont families and to provide a greater variety of programs. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. You may reach Grana and Marzia at (510) 790-7861. Drop by to learn more about LFCD and let us know how we can help you, and get to know us!



NEW FRC PARTNER – OFFERS FREE “MATCHED” SAVINGS ACCOUNTS TO REFUGEES

By Jennie Mollica

By night, Amanullah Mohiudin works the “graveyard” shift stocking supplies at Wal-Mart; by day, he studies for his GED in hopes of becoming a computer teacher like he was before he fled the war in Afghanistan. Until six months ago, he spent two hours transferring from bus to BART rushing to get to work on time. He was not able to start college because he had no way of getting there. And he knew nothing of banking, budgeting or credit in the U.S. Now, with the help of the Bay Area Refugee Individual Development Account (IDA) Program, Amanullah diligently tracks his income and expenses. He has enrolled in college. And he has managed to save \$2,000 and has received another \$2,000 in free “match” money to buy a car. “Now that I have a car,” Amanullah reports through a Farsi translator, “I can start going to college and work on time and use my time working and studying—not traveling.”

Amanullah is just one of roughly 100 refugees who is benefiting from the Bay Area Refugee IDA Program, administered by Lao Family Community Development, Inc., the FRC's newest partner. This federally funded program “matches” the savings of low-income refugees to help them pay for post-secondary education or job training, a computer, a car, a home, or to start their own small business. Families can save up to \$4,000 and get an additional \$4,000 “free” to buy the asset of their dreams; individuals can save up to \$2,000 and get another \$2,000 to buy their asset. “When I heard of such a program,” Amanullah explains, “I was wondering how it's possible that some should give free money...I thought that it was a scam. But when I went to its office and found out it's a real place and a program, I was so happy.”

(continued on page 6)

ANNUAL FRC “DAY AWAY”

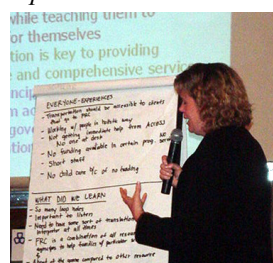
By Ruth LaMer



On December 4, 2003, I found myself alone, discouraged, 5 months pregnant, unemployed, and having no support system. It was hard for me to comprehend that I was in such a dismal situation given that it was only two years ago that I was recognized as the Employee of the Year. I entered the Fremont Family Resource Center purely for the sole reason to get directions to BART. As I approached the front desk, I felt a sense of warmth. I noticed various brochures at a desk that proudly held a sign saying “Welcome Desk.” It was then that a very personable lady greeted me and asked if I needed help. The lady assumed I had business there and I just absent mindedly replied: “I need to get to the BART but I am just looking around.” Preparing for her to tell me that I needed to leave, I was surprised when the lady encouraged me to take my time and feel free to take any of the brochures. Curious, I asked her what this place was.



Answering me with a smile, she proceeded to tell me about the FRC and its services. During the course of our conversation, I told her that I was expecting my second child and she expressed congratulations and asked if I was already on WIC for my son. I looked at her in puzzlement. “WIC? What’s that?” She briefly told me about WIC and walked me over to the WIC office. The WIC staff was friendly and asked if I was free to do a screening. In a matter of minutes, I found myself with essential nutrition information for my family as well as WIC checks to obtain free food. Wow! And I only came here for BART directions. During the screening, the WIC screener asked if I was on the CalWorks program.



“CalWorks? What is that? Oh no. I don’t need that. I want to work.” The WIC staff then told me about the purpose of CalWorks and asked if I wanted more information. I figured I might as well check it out. She directed me over to the Social Services office.

The Social Services staff explained to me what Calworks entailed. I didn’t know I could access cash aid and food stamps services. Before departure, the officer of the day at the CalWorks office asked me if I planned to return to work after giving birth. Of course I was. I planned on providing for my family as I did before. It was then that he told me about EDD and Job Club. He walked me over and introduced me to the Job Club coordinator. It was here that I was informed of the various employment supportive services available to me. Imagine that, I can come in and use their computers for free. These services were accessible to me and all I did was come in for directions. On December 4 2003, I found myself alone, 5 months

pregnant, and unemployed. I had so much to look forward too.



implemented during this exercise as every door led towards a step to self-empowerment.

In life, there are circumstances that individuals have no control over. However, each individual has the ability to make choices to mold their future. My “Day Away” experience reinforced the notion that yes, the FRC does provide clients with easy accessibility to various services and that the FRC is as much a resource to its staff as it is to the people it serves. I see it everyday in my work. However, it is truly the caring nature of each FRC staff member that serves as the momentum for clients to create and make changes in order to improve their lives.

The FRC Day Away was a great day, made possible only through the work of many! Special thanks go to the Day Away Committee members who are: Delia Castellvi, WIC, Miguel Garcia, Tri-Cities One Stop Career Ctr, Ram Gokul, Youth & Family Services, Chris Guyon, 4 C's, Taiba Hosseini, Afghan Coalition, Len Kruszecki, FRC, Deborra Lay, FRC, Gina Miguel Child Care Links, Shirley McPherson, Child Care Links, Iris Preece, Youth & Family Services, Judy Schwartz, FRC, Suzanne Shenfil, COF Human Services, Lawrence Shweky, FRC, Dan Swinbank, CRIL, Gene Viens, Department of Rehabilitation, Giselle Vieto, Fremont Healthy Start, Becky Webb, SAVE, Loretta Williams, FRC.



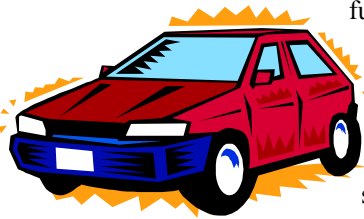
On December 4, 2003, the 5th Annual FRC “Day Away” was held at the Fremont Veteran’s Hall. The theme was “We are the World: Joining Hands to Work Together.” The day was full of active exercises that offered opportunities to learn about one another, and explored common challenges faced by FRC customers as well as FRC agency staff. In the morning the Veteran’s hall was “transformed” into the FRC, and each Day Away participant was assigned a role as either a client, a staff person at their own agency, or a staff person at an agency not their own! FRC Mental Health Specialist Ruth LaMer recounts her experience in the accompanying article.



SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(continued from page 4)

Nineteen-year-old Chau Nguyen is also saving in the Bay Area Refugee IDA Program. Chau works part-time while studying full-time and taking care of her two younger siblings. Her car recently broke down, leaving her and her two young brothers with no transportation. She cannot decide whether she will use her savings and match money to buy a car or a much-needed computer to further her studies at Chabot College—or perhaps both. “I really need a good car to serve my family,” Chau says in her well-honed English. “Also, I need to have a computer to do my homework.” A petite Vietnamese woman, Chau’s dream is to become a dental hygienist. Through the program’s financial education classes, Chau has learned how to better balance her income and expenses, the importance of having a bank account, and what “good credit” is. Through the program’s Car Buyer’s Workshop, she has also learned the tricks of the car salesmen’s trade and how to inspect a used car for malfunctions.



A single mother of a disabled boy, Teresa’s dream is to own her own home someday. Until eight months ago, Teresa—an indigenous Guatemalan from a town of 300 people—never thought it possible. With her first bank account ever, Teresa now has saved \$5,000. She will receive another \$4,000 from the Bay Area Refugee IDA Program and is applying for another \$15,000 of “free” IDA match money through Lao Family’s IDA partner

agency, EBALDC. Following the advice of one of Lao Family Community Development’s first-time homebuyer counselors, Teresa increased her wages with a side job babysitting and applied for a credit card. With her \$24,000 in savings and match money, increased earnings, and a good credit rating, Teresa is well on her way to fulfilling her dream.



To qualify for the refugee savings program, applicants must have a job and be a refugee, a political asylee, a victim of trafficking, or an Amerasian. While participants may have lived here for many years and be green card holders, this program targets people who are not yet U.S. citizens. So far, the program’s participants come from (literally) around the world: Afghanistan, Iran, Bosnia, Burma, Nepal, Central and South America, South East Asia, and East Africa. The Bay Area Refugee IDA program has enough funds to enroll 100 participants per year, but the grant will expire next Fall and any unspent funds will be returned to the federal government. For more information on enrollment, call (510) 790-7861 for Farsi speakers and (510) 533-8850 for Spanish, Vietnamese, Lao or Bosnian speakers.



VITA's Second Season at FRC Off and Running!

The FRC Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is in full swing. Once again this year, low-income families are getting their tax returns prepared for free by trained volunteers. As of the writing of this article on March 4, 2004, we have served 232 families, helping them to get \$392,915.00 in federal tax refunds.



We are led again this year by a wonderful group of volunteer leaders including Janis Garner, our volunteer coordinator, and Arlene and Michael Frazier, our trainers

and head coaches. Some 72 additional volunteers are serving as tax preparers, screeners, greeters, financial independence counselors, floaters, translators, and transmitters. Our volunteers speak 32 different languages, allowing us to serve everyone in our community in need of these services.

The FRC VITA campaign is part of a county-wide effort "Earn It! Keep It! Save It! aimed at improving the financial independence of low-income families in our community. The effort is a collaboration whose major partners are the United Way of the Bay Area, the IRS, the Alameda County Department of Social Services, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Our VITA campaign



and Family Economic Success efforts here at the FRC are also supported by the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund.

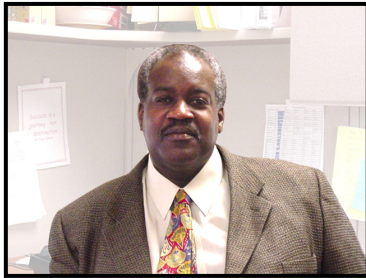
Our VITA site is open every Wednesday until April 15th from 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm. We will also be open on Saturday, March 20 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Registration takes place in the Caribbean Room of Building EFGH.



Profile: Leadership Team Member Melvin Shaddock

by Sherri Plaza

Twenty three years and ten months – that’s how long Melvin Shaddock has worked for the state Employment Development Department (EDD). He started as an Employment Program Representative at the South San Francisco office, later transferring to the Santa Clara office,



Hayward office, and to the Fremont office in January 2003 as the Employment Program Manager.

As the manager of the largest FRC member agency, Melvin welcomes the opportunity to be on the Leadership Team. Collaboration among the FRC member agencies

is essential to its existence. Melvin feels that EDD needs to take a lead role in order for the collaboration to be successful. In fact, one of their department goals is “Be a good collaborative partner with the City of Fremont and the Family Resource Center.” By working together with other FRC agencies, they can better serve their clients.

When a client enters EDD, most likely they are experiencing a personal hardship such as job loss. He instills in his staff the importance of treating all people the way you would like to be treated. "What can I do to help you?" "How can I help you?" These are key phrases to providing the best service to EDD clients and really making a difference in their lives. And that, after all, is why we are all here at the FRC! Thanks, Melvin, for making people happier.

A Collaborative Moment

Reva Srinivasan of Parental Stress Service shared the following: "I am working with a single CalWORKs mom with two young children. She lives with friends who are arguing constantly, and is doing her best to go to school and find housing. Her situation felt quite overwhelming. I decided to contact the great people at the FRC's Family Service Team. Now the whole team, including Ruth Lamer and Rhonda Boykins are helping my client with transportation, planning her career, and child care. Her case manager on the Team, Sylvia Yeh, is helping her to find housing and to manage her finances. My client feels supported and cared for, and I am delighted, too. We both feel less overwhelmed, so the therapy is going much better. The Family Service Team is terrific!"

Submitted by Reva Srinivasan, Parental Stress

Ask Resource Rosie!



Question: I have always been confused about the childcare stages of the CalWORKs program. Can you please explain them to me?

The CalWORKs program has three stages of child care:

Stage I: Participant is on cash-aid and is involved in an approved work activity such as working, training, job club or other program for work readiness.

Stage II: Participant is no longer on cash aid, but has received it in the last 24 months and is currently in an approved work activity such as job search, training or working.

Stage III: Participant has been off of cash aid for 24 months and is involved in an approved work activity. Stage III clients must be on Stage II on the last day of their 24 months off of cash aid in order to enroll into this fund.

It’s important to remember that the participant’s eligibility is based on the fact that they are currently receiving, or have received cash assistance. It is not based on medi-cal or food stamps.

Question: I have a client who is about to start classes at Ohlone College and is currently receiving cash assistance for herself and her children through the welfare office. How can she access childcare assistance through the CalWORKs program?

Your client sounds eligible for Stage I childcare services through 4C’s. Have her contact her employment counselor through social services. The employment counselor can issue a Child Care Request Form (CCRF), which she can then submit to 4C’s at a scheduled appointment. 4C’s will enroll her and a childcare provider of her choice, who will then be reimbursed for the hours of care authorized by the CCRF.

Do you have a question for Resource Rosie? Send an email to resourcerosie@hotmail.com.

Child Care Links
39155 Liberty St.
Suite D430
Fremont, CA
94538
510-791-9256

4C’s
39155 Liberty St.
Suite D410
Fremont, CA
94538
510-574-2160

4C’s
22351 City Center Drive
Suite 150
Hayward, CA
94541
510-584-3101

The Fremont Family Resource Center

Lunchtime Learning Series

12-2pm, FRC Pacific Room

Trainings are free and open to all interested service professionals.

Continuing Education units (1.5) for LCSWs and MFTs will be offered for a \$15 service fee (PCE#2888). Now in it's 3rd year, the FRC Lunchtime Learning Series has been highly rated by past participants.

Date	Topic
September 25	Windmills: Breaking Down Stereotypes on Disabilities
October 30	Stigma and Mental Illness: A View from the Inside
November 20	Encountering Hostile Clients <i>(1pm-5pm; limited to 15 people)</i>
December 18	HIV/AIDS: Separating Fact from Fiction
January 29	Managing Conflict in the Workplace
February 26	Black History Month Celebration
March 25	Helping Clients Achieve Economic Success
April 22	Suicide, Depression and Youth
June 24	Fathers and Their Families
July 29	Child Support: Advocating for Your Clients

The Fremont Family Resource Center is located at 39155 Liberty Street.
For more detailed information on specific training topics, please check our website at www.fremont.gov or contact Judy Schwartz at jschwartz@ci.fremont.ca.us or 574-2274.





FRC Celebrates Black History Month

African American Cultural Day



The FRC was buzzing with families and excitement on Saturday Feb 28th, when the FRC Community Engagement Committee hosted our first African American Cultural Day. The celebration had everything, from music and dance, to art, delicious food, wonderful story telling, and stimulating conversation regarding health issues in the African American community. Special thanks to all who made this event happen, including major co-sponsors Kaiser Permanente and Washington Hospital; our presenters, **Marijo**, storyteller; **Nicole Boswich** & Irvington HS Step Team; Michael Miller, Executive Director of Parents of Children of African Descent, **Dr. Calvin Wheeler**, **Kaiser Permanente**; Dr. June Glen-Lawson, **Tri-City Health Center**; Colette Winlock, **Black Area United Fund**; and Arnold



Perkins, **Alameda County Public Health**.

Deepest thanks to the Community Engagement Committee for hosting this great event: Patricia Garcia, chair; AACD Co-Coordinator, Lucia Cordell; AACD Co-Coordinator, Debra Nunn, Gina Arreo; Wendi Bennett; Kai Chaudhri; Eric Mitchell; Josh Costa; Ann Hong Zhou; Dan Swinbank; Meena Kumar; Sharyn McDavid; La Deitrich Miller; Mark Thomasee; Zoya Raysberg; Linda Dawal; Elsa Retiro; and Ruth Young; Winnie Barquero; Manaf Mansure; Renee Wong, and Leslie Szeto.

Black History Celebration

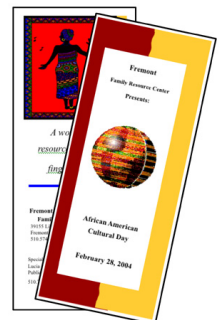


The FFRC's Lunchtime Training Series on February 29 was an inspirational and fun-filled celebration of the many achievements of Black Americans. We had a wonderful experience learning about the contributions Black Americans have made to all areas of American life. Did you know that the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater was the first dance company in the US to feature Black dancers? Or that Ralph Bunche was the first Black American to win a Nobel Peace prize in 1950 for his work on the Arab-Israeli truce in 1948? Did you know that Charles



Drew, M.D., invented the procedures used for preserving blood plasma that save countless lives? These are just

three of the facts covered in a session that ranged from jazz to literature, from dance to baseball, from civil rights and politics to food and scientific discoveries. Many thanks to Melvin Shaddock, E.J. Hilliard and Loretta Williams who consulted with the Training Committee for the Black American History celebration. A very special thanks to Debra Crenshaw for her performance of a "praise dance," and Kathleen Kruszecki for baking the Sweet Potatoe pies we all enjoyed.



The Black History Celebration was produced by the FRC Training Committee: Len Kruszecki, Chair, Iris Preece, Gloria Lando, Aggie Zepeda, Beth Armstrong, Reva Srinivasan and Waheed Momand.

CRIL NEW WEBSITE

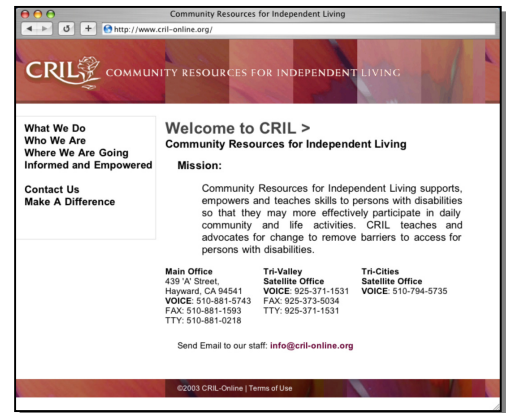
As of February 1, 2004, Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) launched its new website, www.cril-online.org. CRIL's website provides resources that empower people with disabilities and members in the community who want and need to know more about disability issues.

Of particular focus is our goal to consolidate funding resource information to support the acquisition of assistive technology. A majority of people with disabilities cannot afford the assistive technology they need because it is not covered by insurance and their sole source of income is SSI or SSDI. Under the imminent threat of Medi-Cal budget cuts "Optional Benefits" such as Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Medical Supplies, and Hearing Aids are just some of the items that may no longer be covered. Alternative resources, service and self-advocacy are needed more than ever. Securing home modifications for people with disabilities and the elderly is critical to maintaining quality of life and staying independent of institutionalized care. At CRIL, Independent Living Coordinators work with those who want to find alternative resources to patch together solutions. Here are some examples:

Christmas in April approached CRIL to offer volunteer labor and home modification materials for wheel chair users who needed an accessible ramp installed in their home. CRIL offers free home modification assessments to people with disabilities and seniors who think they can increase their independence by integrating assistive technology into their home. We worked with Christmas in April to coordinate this resource to the benefit of CRIL consumers.

The Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) is a California State mandated program, under governance of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Under the DDTP the California Telephone Access Program (CTAP) distributes telecommunications equipment and services for individuals certified as having functional limitations of hearing, vision, mobility, speech and/or interpretation of information. Free equipment is also available to non-profits who provide service to those who are deaf and hard of hearing. Visit the website for more information. (<http://www.ddtp.org/>)

Non-profits will appreciate resources under the CRIL link INFORMED AND EMPOWERED. For example, visit



Disability Resources Monthly and you will find a "one-stop" link site on any disability related issue by state and subject. Also, we sifted through many and posted one of the best Disability Awareness Guides made available through Very Special Arts. This link provides concise education about a range of disabilities and what you can do to improve positive interaction and accommodation.

If you have links to resources that you would like to see added to our website, I welcome your suggestions by e-mail: ann.johnson@cril-online.org.

K U D O S !

A sampling of comments from the FRC's "We're All Ears" customer comment forms.

CHILD CARE LINKS

Andrea Finley
Everytime I call or come into the office, all the staff members are very nice and helpful GS
10/21/03

DISCOVERY COVE

Hajar and staff
Everytime my child gets the best attention, love, nurturing, positive environment; [I see] her actually developing better social skills...., she always gives me daily feedback and my daughter actually cries going to anywhere but here. Thanks to all who support the growth of Discovery Cove.

Ms. Hajar is very special to us. You need to take care of her in her medical needs because she deals with different kids every day with all kinds of germs. If something was to happen to her, what would we do without her. Please take care of her RG.
10/17/03

They did good job and took good care of my daughter. They were aware of my deafness but we found a way to communicate for my daughter. Congratulations to them. T
12/20/03

FREMONT HEALTHY START

Meena Kumar
She is so smart. She is so kind and willing to help people. She is excellent and she is the [best] person I have met in my life. (Everything is the truth.) GP
11/10/03

Eloisa Murillo
Eloisa helped me fill out my application and complete it and her service was great! RP
11/18/03

Sylvia Zapien
Sylvia helped me fill out my forms and I love her for that. Can she come home with me?
11/19/03

SAVE

LaDeitrich Miller
I just want to say all of my thanks and appreciation to Mrs. LaDeitrich Miller which she was kind and nice and followed up my case and helped me a lot. She put more effort even on weekends. I have never seen a kind person such as her. With all my best wishes and thanks to her. HBD
2/13/04

WORKFORCE & BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

Vanessa
I received help with bus tickets from Vanessa and Eloisa. ML
10/11/03

Facilities Updates

Conference Rooms Supplies

The conference rooms are now stocked with cleaning supplies and markers, which are located in a corner shelf in each of the rooms. The supplies are being provided so that EVERYONE that uses the conference rooms can enjoy the supplies and keep the rooms neat and clean. Dry erase board and flipchart markers have been placed in every room. Please be courteous and leave these supplies for the next group.

Please remember to fill out the salmon colored Facility Problem Report form located in each conference room and return to Loretta, FRC Facility/Office Coordinator in Suite A110, if you note problems that need attention.

New FRC Roof

Last fall, construction began to replace the roofs on both FRC buildings. This project is in the final stages of being complete. There are some small minor punch list

items that still need to be completed. The pitter-patter steps that you hear above should cause minimal disturbances. I want to thank everyone for their continued support and patience.

Security Key Card Access Control System

Finally, we are moving into the home stretch of having the new security key card access control system in full operation. This means that you will need to use your picture key card to access the buildings and/or your office area before or after business hours. Also this means in addition the alarm feature of the system will be active and sending alarm signals to the Fremont Police Department if triggered. Agencies that opted to buy into the system for their office suite are being re-keyed at FRC Scoop press time. The entrance doors on both buildings will be last to be re-keyed and advanced notice will be given prior to this occurring.

The Caribbean Conference Room/Staff Lounge that houses the vending machines has also been added to the new system and everyone now need to use their key card to gain entrance into this room. Also, if you are in charge of scheduling or attending meetings that may be held in the Millennium Conference Room you will need to have bypass access set up in advance. Each agency Director/Manager should call me to request this additional access privilege if needed for your staff.

Every staff person that works at the FRC should have their picture taken. The picture key card will also serve as an ID badge. If you have not taken your picture, please call Loretta at (510) 574-2272 or email: llwilliams@ci.fremont.ca.us to schedule an appointment.



HONOR A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE: Donate to the FRC

The FRC and its member agencies have all been impacted by the lingering downturn in the economy, the state budget crises, and the resulting city and county budget problems. Many agencies are undergoing hiring freezes, lay offs, and/or program cutbacks. The FRC has been directly impacted with the loss of County funding for Discovery Cove, our drop-in childcare center. The doors of Discovery Cove continue to stay open for now, but we are in the midst of writing grants and developing strategies to bring in more revenue.

One strategy is the development of a fundraising drive to build up support for the FRC through individual donors. As part of that drive, we have created donation tribute envelopes that can be used for small contributions.

Donors can contribute in honor or memory of someone else, and their donation will be acknowledged to whomever they choose. Envelopes are available in the FRC lobbies. Honor a friend's birthday or promotion with a small donation to the FRC. Every little bit helps!

To make a donation, please pick up a donation envelope in A110 or call Judy Schwartz at 574-2274.

Win a Prize!



Now that you've read the Scoop, answer this quiz for a chance to win a \$10 gift certificate:

1. What publication has a new logo?
2. How many divisions did Cabrillo win first place in?
3. VITA stands for what?
4. What was launched on February 1, 2004?
5. What happened over 23 years ago?
6. What is the new Scoop feature?

Drop off your answers in A110 by 4/15. Winners with correct answers will be randomly chosen.



Family Resource Center

39155 Liberty Street, Suite A110, P.O. Box 5006
Fremont, CA 94537-5006
www.fremont.gov

Return Service Requested

**FRC MEMBER
AGENCIES**

Non-Profit

Afghan Coalition

Asian Community Mental
Health Services

Child Care Links

Community Resources for
Independent Living (CRIL)

Community Child Care
Coordinating Council (4C's)

Fremont Fair Housing and
Landlord/Tenant Services

Fremont Healthy Start
(EBAC)

HELP Adolescent Recovery
Services

Lao Family Community
Development, Inc.

Parental Stress Service

Schuman-Liles Clinic

Shelter Against Violent
Environments (SAVE)

State

CalWORKs Success Center

Department of Rehabilitation

Employment Development
Department

County

Public Health Nursing

Tri-City Community Support
Services

Tri-City Children and Youth
Services

Veteran's Services

Women, Infants, & Children
Program

Workforce & Benefits
Administration

City

Human Services Department
FRC Core Services
Youth & Family Services

***FRC Leadership
Team***

- Shirley McPherson,
Child Care Links
- Letha Barnett,
Schuman-Liles Clinic
- Melvin Shaddock, Employment
Development Department
- Leyda Cedenio,
Department of Rehabilitation
- Tony Limperopolus, Tri-City
Community Support Center
- Suzanne Shenfil, City of
Fremont Human Services
Department